

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **June Meeting**

**Getting RadioActive with WVARA**  
**by Bobby Barnett, KA4VBF,**  
**George Williams, N6NKT,**  
**and Jim Peterson, K6EI**

**Wednesday June 10**  
**Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:  
American Red Cross,  
Silicon Valley Chapter  
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr  
(southwest corner) in San Jose  
Map at [www.wvara.org/meetings.html](http://www.wvara.org/meetings.html)

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

## **Club Net**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at [www.wvara.org/net.html](http://www.wvara.org/net.html).

**Visitors Are Welcome!**

## **President's Letter**

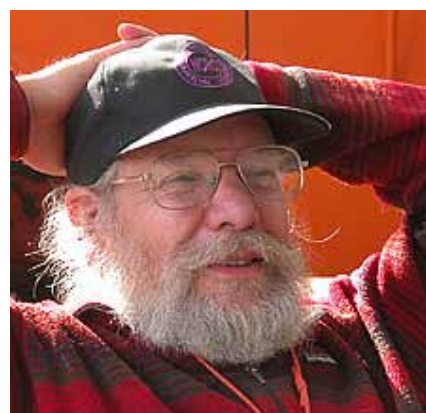
### **Field Day**

Field day is an event which warms the hearts of many hams. Most of us can remember our first field day, either as a novice operator getting a first taste of contest-style operation, helping other operators before we were licensed, or working with a group of hams on a radio project for the first time.

We all probably started with a fairly large operation, because large operations are the ones needing the most people.

However, field day operations range from the very small, one ham and a radio to monster operations like the Potomac Valley club's 28 transmitter operation in the Washington DC area. While small operations can be fun, to my mind, the most fun at field day is getting together with a bunch of hams and working together to make an operation go smoothly.

In the larger picture, field day is many more things: party, public outreach, educational opportunity, camping trip etc. For me it is a contest which helps us prepare for emergency conditions. We go out in the field and make our radios self sufficient for 24 hours of intense



operation. We operate from tents, as if an earthquake had destroyed most of the buildings in our neighborhood. We operate from backup power as if PG&E's service had completely failed. All the while we are introducing new people to ham radio which helps it grow. Most importantly, we are having fun.

The WVARA field day operation has an excellent mix of activities aimed at making it fun. We run enough transmitters so anyone who wants to operate can get a chance. We have an active Get On The Air operation for unlicensed people and very new operators. We have a number of people who can act a control operator for technician licensees who want to try HF operation before taking the plunge of upgrading their licenses. We try to score high enough to satisfy the contest urges of our most competitive operators. Last year we were number three in the country. We are active on CW, voice, and digital. CW earns us the most points. SSB lets almost anyone make contacts in a natural way. Digital is nice for people who don't know CW, haven't gotten over their mic shyness, or have trouble hearing.

Field day 2015 is rushing toward us. It is the June 27 weekend. But for WVARA, it only marks the start of the summer ham radio season. We will also have the picnic on August 15, the ARRL VHF contest on the September 12 weekend, and the California QSO party on the October 3 weekend. Please join us at any and/or all of these activities.

73, Bill - AE6JV

## ***About the Meeting*** **Getting RadioActive with WVARA**

There's a whole bunch of exciting radio-related activities that WVARA will be involved with over the next 6 months, and now is your chance to find out about ways to get involved. The theme of this month's meeting is **Getting *RadioActive* with WVARA** -- a team presentation by Bobby Barnett (KA4VBF), George Williams (N6NKT) and Jim Peterson (K6EI). The meeting is 7pm this Wednesday, June 10. Topics we'll cover include:

- WVARA's upcoming participation in the ARRL September VHF Contest (Sept 12-14) from the top of Mount Diablo — wow!
- WVARA's return to super-rare Kings County for the California QSO Party (Oct 2-4) — I can hear the pile-ups calling us already!
- Ideas/plans for activating mountain-tops with portable radio gear as part of Summits On The Air.
- Operating portable during July's Flight of the Bumblebees QRP event (July 26) as well as WVARA's August BBQ/Portable Radio Event (15 Aug) at Baylands Park.
- And of course the latest updates on Field Day (June 26-28).

Meeting Location: Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Visitors are welcome, and of course there will be chocolate chip cookies.

If you haven't been to the Red Cross, "talk-in" is usually available on the Association's repeaters. Best choice would be 2m/220.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner prior to the meeting at the Burger King at 2532 Channing Avenue, just off Seaboard Avenue and near the corner of Trimble Road and

De La Cruz Boulevard. Map of restaurant: <http://mapq.st/3-l0rpFmro>

Club Web Page: [www.wvara.org](http://www.wvara.org)

Hope to see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

WVARA Field Day Coordinator

## **KP San Jose HF Station Net Operators**

We are looking for amateur radio General class or higher to activate the amateur radio station installed at the Kaiser Permanente (KP) San Jose medical center in the Engineering Department. We have a drill on HF with southern Ca the fourth Wednesday at 1245 local. Our Pasadena station functions as net control.

We have had a retired KP employee who has been performing this function for years, but is unfortunately a recent SK. If there is anyone in your organization who would like to participate in this state-wide hospital emergency organization, it would be appreciated.

Information on our organization is at [www.kparn.org](http://www.kparn.org).

73

Duane, WB9RER

wb9rer at gmail dot com

KPARN Coordinator

## **FCC Eliminates Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee Forwarded by John Glass, NU6P**

ZCZC AG19

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 19 ARLB019

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT May 26, 2015

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB019

ARLB019 FCC Eliminates Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee,

we are eliminating this regulatory fee category. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 “payment units” in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have “adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process.”

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

“The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign,” the FCC explained. “In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically.”

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants “will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories.”

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

NNNN  
/EX

<b>WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)</b>						
<b>Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM, All Repeaters Linked Together During Net</b>						
<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>05/12/15</b>	<b>05/19/15</b>	<b>05/26/15</b>	<b>06/02/15</b>	<b>06/09/15</b>
AA6RB	Roy	X			X	
AB6XS	Kevin			X		
AE6JV	Bill		X		X	
AF6AE	Bill	X	X	X	X	
K6BRF	Bert	X	X	X		
KA6AMB	Mark		X	X	X	X
KD6VOR	Marv		X	X	X	
KF6EMB	Svend		X	X	X	
KI6SLX	Peri		X		X	
KJ6CQJ	Dean				X	
KJ6GMO	Sue				X	
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X	X	X	X	X
KK6QIY	Steve					X
KK6RMB	Tom		X			
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve				X	
W6ESL	Tom			X	X	
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X	X	
W6RLK	Ron			X		
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL		7	12	12	15	5

## **2015 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board**

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